

Grameen Shakti (<http://www.grameen-info.org/gshakti/>)

Introduction

Grameen Shakti (*shakti* means “energy” in Bengali) is a social business established in 1996 under the Grameen Bank. The goal of Grameen Shakti (GS) is to introduce, promote, and provide affordable renewable energy technology to rural households of Bangladesh and it has installed more than 1.8 million Solar Home Systems in rural Bangladesh.



It has expanded solar portfolios to include solar irrigation system, solar drinking water, and mini-grids and recently, it also provides improved cooking stoves (ICS) to the rural area that are more energy-efficient and emits less harmful gases compared to traditional ones. It also cooperates with Intel to provide wearable devices (called COEL) to women in the rural area to protect them from harmful gases while cooking.

Grameen Shakti emphasizes environmental protection, financial inclusion, and women empowerment. In 2007 it received the Right Livelihood Award (also known as alternative Nobel Prize).

Objectives for Bangladesh Challenge

Bangladesh Challenge team will visit Grameen Shakti’s headquarter in Dhaka and also travel to their sites in Singair to observe their projects including solar home system, solar irrigation, and mini-grid. We will explore potential areas of collaboration by providing further technological assistance to Grameen Shakti’s operation. We are also specifically requested by the managing director to help them develop pay-as-you-go modules for LPG-based Improved Cook Stove they have installed in the rural area and explore possibilities of adopting fast-charging technology for electricity-based vehicles.